

- S 3.4 Require adequate mitigation of potential impacts from erosion, slope instability, or other hazardous slope conditions, or from loss of aesthetic resources for development occurring on slope and hillside areas.
- S 3.5 During permit review, identify and encourage mitigation of onsite and offsite slope instability, debris flow, and erosion hazards on lots undergoing substantial improvements.
- S 3.6 Require grading plans, environmental assessments, engineering and geologic technical reports, irrigation and landscaping plans, including ecological restoration and revegetation plans, as appropriate, in order to assure the adequate demonstration of a project's ability to mitigate the potential impacts of slope and erosion hazards and loss of native vegetation.
- S 3.7 Support mitigation on existing public and private property located on unstable hillside areas, especially slopes with recurring failures where Riverside County property or public right-of-way is threatened from slope instability, or where considered appropriate and urgent by the Riverside County Engineer, Fire, or Sheriff Department. (AI 100)

Subsidence and Expansive and Collapsible Soils

Subsidence refers to the sudden sinking or gradual downward settling and compaction of soil and other surface material with little or no horizontal motion. It may be caused by a variety of human and natural activities, including earthquakes.

Figure S-7 identifies areas susceptible to subsidence hazards based on geologic and hydrogeologic characteristics that are similar to regions of the county in which subsidence is documented.

Land subsidence and fissuring have been well-documented in Riverside County. Most of the early documented cases of subsidence affected only agricultural land or open space. As urban areas have expanded, so too have the impacts of subsidence on structures for human occupancy. Ground subsidence and associated fissuring in Riverside County have resulted from both falling and rising ground water tables. In addition, many fissures have occurred along active faults that bound the San Jacinto Valley and the Elsinore Trough.

Subsidence typically occurs throughout a susceptible valley. In addition, differential displacement and fissures occur at or near the valley margin, and along faults. In the County of Riverside, the worst damage to structures as a result of regional subsidence may be expected at the valley margins. Alluvial valley regions are especially susceptible.

Expansive soils have a significant amount of clay particles which can give up water (shrink) or take on water (swell). The change in volume exerts stress on buildings and other loads placed on these soils. The occurrence of these soils is often associated with geologic units having marginal stability. Expansive soils can be widely dispersed and can be found in hillside areas as well as low-lying alluvial basins.

Expansion testing and mitigation are required by current grading and building codes. Special engineering designs are used effectively to alleviate problems caused by expansive soils. These designs include the use of reinforcing steel in foundations, drainage control devices, over-excavation and backfilling with



A well-documented case of property damage due to collapsible soils occurred in the Murrieta area (Shlemon and Hakakian, 1992). There, alluvium was left in place during rough grading, and later collapsed when ground water levels rose significantly. The ground water rose because of new golf course and residential irrigation.

non-expansive soil. For new development, future problems with expansive soils can be largely prevented through proper site investigation, soils testing, foundation design, and quality assurance during grading operations as required by the Riverside County Building Code. Active enforcement, peer review, and homeowner involvement are required to maintain these standards. Homeowners are important because moisture control and modified drainage can minimize the effects of expansive soils. Homeowners should be educated about the importance of maintaining a constant level of moisture below their foundation. Excessive swelling and shrinkage cycles can result in distress to improvements and structures.

Although expansive soils are now routinely alleviated through the Riverside County Building Code, problems related to past, inadequate codes constantly appear. Expansive soils are not the only cause of structural distress in existing structures. Poor compaction and construction practices, settlement, and landslides can cause similar damage, but require different mediation efforts. Once expansion has been verified as the source of the problem, mitigation can be achieved through reinforcement of the existing foundation, or alternatively, through the excavation and removal of expansive soils in an affected area.

Hydroconsolidation, or *soil collapse*, typically occurs in recently deposited, Holocene (less than 10,000 years old) soils that were deposited in an arid or semi-arid environment. Soils prone to collapse are commonly associated with man-made fill, wind-laid sands and silts, and alluvial fan and mudflow sediments deposited during flash floods. These soils typically contain minute pores and voids. The soil particles may be partially supported by clay or silt, or chemically cemented with carbonates. When saturated, collapsible soils undergo a rearrangement of their grains, and the water removes the cohesive (or cementing) material. Rapid, substantial settlement results. An increase in surface water infiltration, such as from irrigation, or a rise in the ground-water table, combined with the weight of a building or structure, can initiate settlement and cause foundations and walls to crack.

In the County of Riverside, collapsible soils occur predominantly at the base of the mountains, where Holocene-age alluvial fan and wash sediments have been deposited during rapid runoff events. In addition, some windblown sands may be vulnerable to collapse and hydroconsolidation. Typically, differential settlement of structures occurs when lawns or plantings are heavily irrigated in close proximity to the structure's foundation. Forensic indications of collapsible soils include:

- tilting floors;
- cracking or separation in structures;
- sagging floors; or
- non-functional windows and doors.

Policies:

- S 3.8 Require geotechnical studies within documented subsidence zones, as well as zones that may be susceptible to subsidence, as identified in Figure S-7 and the Technical Background Report, prior to the issuance of development permits. Within the documented subsidence zones of the Coachella, San Jacinto, and Elsinore valleys, the studies must address the potential for reactivation of these zones, consider the potential impact on the project, and provide adequate and acceptable mitigation measures.
- S 3.9 Develop a liaison program with all Riverside County water districts to prevent water extraction induced subsidence (AI 4).

- S 3.10 Encourage and support efforts for long-term, permanent monitoring of topographic subsidence in all producing groundwater basins, irrespective of past subsidence.

Wind Erosion

Wind erosion is a serious environmental problem attracting global attention. Soil movement is initiated as a result of wind forces exerted against the surface of the ground. Dust particles in the air create major health problems. Atmospheric dust causes respiratory discomfort, may carry pathogens that cause eye infections and skin disorders, and reduces highway and air traffic visibility. Dust storms can cause additional problems. Buildings, fences, roads, crops, trees and shrubs can all be damaged by abrasive blowing soil.

Wind and wind-blown sand are an environmentally-limiting factor throughout much of Riverside County. Approximately 20% of the land area of Riverside County is vulnerable to “high” and “very high” wind erosion susceptibility. The Coachella Valley, the Santa Ana River Channel in northwestern Riverside County, and areas in and around the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto are zones of high wind erosion susceptibility (Figure S-8).

Wind-blown sand is a well-recognized hazard for developments in the Coachella Valley. It has forced abandonment of dwellings and subdivided tracts in the central Coachella Valley. The primary source of sand here is the Whitewater River. Increases in the amount of wind-blown sand are related to episodic flooding of the Whitewater River. A 15-fold increase in wind erosion rates in this area has been noted following heavy flood events. Therefore, mitigation of wind-blown sand is directly related to mitigation of flood potential on the Whitewater River. Efforts to control the wind, using hedges and other barriers, may not be effective in mitigating wind erosion.

However, the Whitewater River provides a large component of sand to sustain the dune fields, home to several endangered species. Erosion intervention has had serious and unforeseen consequences in many places, so any proposed mitigation program should be approached carefully, with an extended period of preparatory study.

Policies:

- S 3.11 Require studies that address the potential of this hazard on proposed development within “High” and “Very High” wind erosion hazard zones as shown on Figure S-8, Wind Erosion Susceptibility Map.
- S 3.12 Include a disclosure about wind erosion susceptibility on property title for those properties located within “High” and “Very High” wind erosion hazard zones as shown on Figure S-8, Wind Erosion Susceptibility Map. (AI 92)
- S 3.13 Require buildings to be designed to resist wind loads.
- S 3.14 Educate builders about the wind environment and encourage them to design projects accordingly (AI 93, 97, 98).

Flood and Inundation Hazards

Riverside County has experienced severe flooding many times throughout its history, resulting in the loss of lives and millions of dollars in property damage. Floods are caused by rivers and creeks overrunning their banks, and most



Since 1965, eleven Gubernatorial and Presidential flood disaster declarations have been declared for Riverside County. State law generally makes local government agencies responsible for flood control in California.



Flood Facts:

Most lives are lost when people are swept away by flood currents.

Most flood-related deaths are due to flash floods.

Fifty% of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related.

Most property damage results from inundation by sediment-laden water.

Most homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flood water damage.

Individuals and business owners can protect themselves from property losses by purchasing flood insurance through FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.

property damage has occurred where development has been allowed without regard for flood hazard. If urban development continues to encroach onto the floodplains without major structural improvements, Riverside County will face an ever-increasing flood hazard, and potential losses will escalate.

The tremendous capital investments made in dikes, channels, levees, and dams over the last half century have not eliminated all flood hazards, and in some instances, the protective facilities may be unable to accommodate the 100-year flood. In recent years, the idea has become increasingly accepted that, while it is essential to protect existing development, the provision of massive flood control facilities merely to permit new development over major floodplains may be unwise. It is often more effective and less costly to locate development outside of hazard areas than to attempt to control the hazard itself.

Furthermore, consistent with the intent and policies of the Multipurpose Open Space Element, the Safety Element recognizes the need to protect watercourses in their natural state. Flood and inundation policies limit the alteration of floodways and channelization when alternative methods of flood control are not technically feasible. The intent is to balance the need for protection with prudent land use solutions, recreation needs, and habitat requirements; and, as applicable, to provide incentives for natural watercourse preservation, including density transfer programs.

One-hundred-year flood hazard zones are identified in Figure S-9, while dam inundation zones are identified in Figure S-10.

The intent of these policies is to eliminate the need for state or federal flood disaster declarations through aggressive flood mitigation activities.

Flood and Inundation Hazard Abatement

While local agencies operate and maintain many flood control facilities, funding for the construction of such facilities often is shared with federal and state agencies. Nevertheless, local agencies independently fund many local projects without financial assistance from the federal or state governments.

Flooding susceptibility in Riverside County is primarily associated with several major stream drainages, including but not limited to the Santa Ana, San Jacinto and Whitewater Rivers, as well as smaller scale and flash flood events on many of the alluvial fans that flank Riverside County's hillsides. Large-scale developments have utilized golf courses and greenbelts as part of a network of channels that collect flood flows on the upstream side of a project, carry it safely through the project, and disperse it on the downstream side. However, given the low permeabilities of the underlying bedrock, heavy runoff from the surrounding hills and mountains during strong storms cannot be prevented.

Figure S-7 Documented Subsidence Areas

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Figure S-8 Wind Erosion Susceptibility Areas

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The nation has seen several catastrophic collapses of highway and railroad bridges, due to scouring and a subsequent loss of support of foundations. Major bridge crossings that are vital to the County of Riverside should be designed and built to withstand scouring. Scour at highway bridges involves flood water sediment-transport and erosion processes that cause streambed material to be removed from the bridge vicinity. The State of California participates in the bridge scour inventory and evaluation program. In addition, California's seismic retrofit program of bridges includes underpinning of foundations. In western Riverside County, this is expected to help reduce the vulnerability of foundations to be undermined by scour. However, since the eastern portion of the county has only a moderate seismic risk, bridges in these areas are of lower priority for seismic underpinning.

A review of records maintained at the California Office of Emergency Services provided potential failure inundation maps for 23 dams affecting Riverside County. These maps were compiled into the geographic information system digital coverage of potential dam inundation zones for Riverside County. These maps are intended to be used by state and local officials for the development and approval of dam failure emergency procedures as described in Section 8589.5 of the California Government code. The maps are also used to provide information needed to make natural hazard disclosure statements required under recent legislation (AB 1195 Chapter 65, June 9, 1998; Natural Hazard Disclosure Statement).

Seismically-induced inundation refers to flooding that occurs when water retention structures fail during an earthquake. Often, inundation is triggered by damage from a seiche. A seiche is a wave that reverberates on the surface of water in an enclosed or semi-enclosed basin, such as a reservoir, lake, bay or harbor, in response to ground shaking during an earthquake. Seismically-induced inundation can also occur if strong ground shaking causes structural damage to above-ground water tanks. In response to this hazard, a new tank design includes flexible joints that can accommodate movement in any direction.

Policies:

- S 4.1 For new construction and proposals for substantial improvements to residential and nonresidential development within 100-year floodplains as mapped by FEMA or as determined by site specific hydrologic studies for areas not mapped by FEMA, Riverside County shall apply a minimum level of acceptable risk; and disapprove projects that cannot mitigate the hazard to the satisfaction of the Building Official or other responsible agency. (AI 25)
- S 4.2 The county shall enforce provisions of the Building Code in conjunction with the following guidelines: (AI 25)
- a. All residential, commercial and industrial structures shall be flood-proofed from the mapped 100-year storm flow. This may require that the finished floor elevation be constructed at such a height as to meet this requirement.



Floodplains are comprised of the floodway and the floodway fringe. They are the low, flat, periodically flooded lands adjacent to rivers, lakes and oceans inundated by 100-year flood.


Floodway: The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the 100-year flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot.

Floodway Fringe: That portion of the floodplain between the floodway and the limits of the existing 100-year floodplain.

100-Year Floodplain: Land bordering a river or channel that can expect to be flooded in a storm that has a one-percent chance of occurring each year. Federal legislation requires that the County have a flood management program for areas that are within the 100-Year Floodplain.

Non-residential (commercial or industrial) structures may be allowed with a “flood-proofed” finished floor below the Base Flood Elevation (i.e., 100-year flood surface) to the extent permitted by state, federal and local regulations. New critical facilities shall be constructed above grade to the satisfaction of the Building Official, based on federal, state, or other reliable hydrologic studies. To the extent that residential, commercial, or industrial structures cannot meet these standards, they shall not be approved.

- b. Critical facilities shall not be permitted in floodplains unless the project design ensures that there are two routes for emergency egress and regress, and minimizes the potential for debris or flooding to block emergency routes, either through the construction of dikes, bridges, or large-diameter storm drains under roads used for primary access.
- c. Development using, storing, or otherwise involved with substantial quantities of onsite hazardous materials shall not be permitted within a 100-year floodplain or dam inundation zone, unless all standards for evaluation, anchoring, and flood-proofing have been satisfied; and hazardous materials are stored in watertight containers, not capable of floating, to the extent required by state and federal laws and regulations.
- d. Specific flood-proofing measures may require: use of paints, membranes, or mortar to reduce water seepage through walls; installation of water tight doors, bulkheads, and shutters; installation of flood water pumps in structures; and proper modification and protection of all electrical equipment, circuits, and appliances so that the risk of electrocution or fire is eliminated. However, fully enclosed areas that are below finished floors shall require openings to equalize the forces on both sides of the walls.



Alteration of Watercourses: For more detailed policies regarding the alteration of natural watercourses, please refer to the Watershed Management Section of the Multipurpose Open Space Element.

S 4.3 Prohibit construction of permanent structures for human housing or employment to the extent necessary to convey floodwaters without property damage or risk to public safety. Agricultural, recreational, or other low intensity uses are allowable if flood control and groundwater recharge functions are maintained. (AI 25)

S 4.4 Prohibit alteration of floodways and channelization unless alternative methods of flood control are not technically feasible or unless alternative methods are utilized to the maximum extent practicable. The intent is to balance the need for protection with prudent land use solutions, recreation needs, and habitat requirements, and as applicable to provide incentives for natural watercourse preservation, including density transfer programs as may be adopted. (AI 25, 60)

- a. Prohibit the construction, location, or substantial improvement of structures in areas designated as floodways, except upon approval of a plan which provides that the proposed development will not result in any significant increase in flood levels during the occurrence of a 100-year flood discharge.
- b. Prohibit the filling or grading of land for nonagricultural purposes and for non-authorized flood control purposes in areas designated as floodways, except upon approval of a plan which

provides that the proposed development will not result in any significant increase in flood levels during the occurrence of a 100-year flood discharge.

- S 4.5 Prohibit substantial modification to watercourses, unless modification does not increase erosion or adjacent sedimentation, or increase water velocities, so as to be detrimental to adjacent property, nor adversely affect adjacent wetlands or riparian habitat. (AI 60, 61)
- S 4.6 Direct flood control improvement measures toward the protection of existing and planned development. (AI 25)
- S 4.7 Any substantial modification to a watercourse shall be done in the least environmentally damaging manner practicable in order to maintain adequate wildlife corridors and linkages and maximize groundwater recharge. (AI 25, 60)
- S 4.8 Allow development within the floodway fringe, if the proposed structures can be adequately flood-proofed and will not contribute to property damage or risks to public safety. (AI 25, 60)
- S 4.9 Within the floodway fringe of a floodplain as mapped by FEMA or as determined by site specific hydrologic studies for areas not mapped by FEMA, require development to be capable of withstanding flooding and to minimize use of fill. However, some development may be compatible within flood plains and floodways, as may some other land uses. In such cases, flood proofing would not be required. Compatible uses shall not, however, obstruct flows or adversely affect upstream or downstream properties with increased velocities, erosion backwater effects, or concentrations of flows. (AI 60)
- S 4.10 Require all proposed projects anywhere in the county to address and mitigate any adverse impacts that it may have on the carrying capacity of local and regional storm drain systems.
- S 4.11 Encourage neighboring jurisdictions to require development occurring adjacent to the County to consider the impact of flooding and flood control measures on properties within unincorporated Riverside County.

High-Risk Facilities

Many essential public and quasi-public facilities and hazardous materials sites are located within the 100-year flood zones of Riverside County, including: 14 of Riverside County's 39 airports; 4 of 18 hospitals; 47 of 109 police stations, fire stations and emergency operation centers; 92 of 380 schools; 446 of 1,306 highway bridges; and 695 of 1,978 hazardous materials sites.



Environmental legislation that protects rare and endangered species will continue to make construction of flood control structures difficult. In arid environments, twice as many species and about 250% more plant cover are associated with natural wash areas, compared with surrounding land. The County should consider a "Flood-prone Land Acquisition Program" that will reduce the losses associated with flooding, as well as the costs associated with mitigation. Developers can still profit from leaving wash corridors untouched, as home buyers will pay premiums to live by open space.

Policies:

- S 4.12 Require certain existing essential, dependent care, and high-risk facilities that are not in conformance with provisions of the County zoning to upgrade or modify building use to a level of safety consistent with the inundation risk. (AI 25, 101)
- S 4.13 Require that facilities storing substantial quantities of hazardous materials within inundation zones shall be adequately flood-proofed and hazardous materials containers shall be anchored and secured to prevent flotation and contamination. (AI 25)
- S 4.14 Require that dependent care facilities have all flood-vulnerable electrical circuitry flood-proofed. (AI 101)
- S 4.15 Require that high-risk facilities maintain and rehearse inundation response plans.
- S 4.16 Utilize power of public land acquisition and other land use measures to create open space zoning of inundation zones in areas that are destined for redevelopment; when this is not feasible, low density land uses should be employed. (AI 25)

Risk Assessment

Recent environmental legislation and improved understanding and analysis of flood hazards in arid environments have resulted in new approaches to flood hazard mitigation implementation. Nationwide, there is a move to leave nature in charge of flood control. The advantages include lower cost, preservation of wildlife habitat and improved recreation potential. However, this type of flood mitigation is difficult to implement in areas where development has already occurred, as well as in regions susceptible to sheet flow. Where water spreads across broad areas, mitigation without channels or culverts is more difficult. Flood control structures have often been built piecemeal over the years, and new development may funnel water into older systems with insufficient capacity. These issues have been mitigated in recent years by the preparation of Master Plans by local public works agencies.

Policies:

- S 4.17 Continue to assess and upgrade inundation risk and protection in the County. (AI 83, 88)
- S 4.18 Require that the design and upgrade of street storm drains be based on the depth of inundation, relative risk to public health and safety, the potential for hindrance of emergency access and regress from excessive flood depth, and the threat of contamination of the storm drain system with sewage effluent. In general, the 10-year flood flows shall be contained within the top of curbs and the 100-year flood flows within the street right-of-way.
- S 4.19 Encourage periodic reevaluation of the 500-year, 100-year and 10-year flood hazard in the county by state, federal, county, and other sources, and use such studies to improve existing protection, to review protection standards proposed for new development and redevelopment, and to update emergency response plans. (AI 59, 60, 83, 88)
- S 4.20 Balance flood control mitigation with open space and environmental protection. (AI 59, 61)

Figure S-9 100-Year Flood Hazard Zones

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Figure S-10 Dam Failure Inundation Zones

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- S 4.21 Encourage the use of specific plans to allow increased densities in certain areas of a proposed development; or apply Transfer of Development Credits to encourage the placement of appropriate land uses in natural hazard areas, including open space, passive recreational uses, or other development capable of tolerating these hazards. (AI 25)
- S 4.22 Take an active role in acquiring property in high-risk flood zones and designating the land as open space for public use or wildlife habitat. (AI 59)

Fire Hazards

A significant portion of the county is undeveloped and consists of rugged topography with highly flammable vegetation. In particular, the hillside terrain of Riverside County has a substantial fire risk. Fire potential for Riverside County is typically greatest in the months of August, September, and October, when dry vegetation coexists with hot, dry Santa Ana winds. However, in Riverside County, fires with conflagration potential can occur at any time of the year.

Widespread fires following an earthquake, coupled with Santa Ana winds, constitute a worst-case fire suppression scenario for Riverside County. Because the fire danger is extreme, there is a statistically significant chance that the worst-case fire suppression scenario could occur.

Following a major earthquake, water availability would likely be curtailed due to breaks in water lines caused by fault rupture, liquefaction or landslides. In addition, above-ground reservoirs are vulnerable to earthquakes, which would also affect the ability to fight fires.

Over time, a majority of Southern California's wildlands will burn, as they are ecologically adapted to do. However, various human-created factors increase the risks that fires will occur; that they will be larger, more intense and more damaging; that fighting them will cost more; and that they will take a higher toll (in economic and non-economic terms). Wildfires in Riverside County often result in death, injury, and economic and natural asset losses. In long-term, the losses in vegetation can also lead to possible soil erosion and flooding. Wildfire susceptibility broken out by Federal, State and Local Responsibility Area (Fire Hazard and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones) has been mapped in Figure S-11. For additional Fire Hazard information and the most recently adopted Cal Fire maps please refer to their website at <http://frap.fire.ca.gov/index>. Additionally, assets at risk due to wildfire threat are identified in the Vegetation Management Plan and Abatement of Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance 695.

The intent of these policies is to eliminate earthquake-induced fire as a threat and to develop an integrated approach to minimizing the threat of wildland fires.

To minimize the potential for disastrous loss of structures and life (human and wildlife), a coordinated program to manage development in the hazardous areas has been identified in this section. The identified policies seek to direct growth away from high fire areas and provide effective tools to manage construction and development in these areas. In the policies that follow, references to 'Fire Hazard Severity Zones' apply to both Local and State Responsibility Areas (LRAs and SRAs) where the underlying land is under County of Riverside land use jurisdiction and designated 'Very High' fire hazard severity.




Mobile home fires erupted at a greater rate (49.1 per thousand) than other structural fires (1.1 per thousand) as a result of the Northridge earthquake. Because the County of Riverside has a large number of mobile homes, there is a potential for high numbers of earthquake-induced structural fires.

Building Code and Performance Standards

Riverside County’s extreme diversity and complex pattern of land use and ownership require equally diverse and complex techniques to effectively manage the fire environment. Custom strategies for each situation can be created through combinations of pre-fire management, suppression, and post-fire management. These strategies should lessen the costly impacts of future wildfires and offer alternatives to continually increasing suppression forces. The continued use of the Riverside County Fire Department Fire Protection and EMS Strategic Master Plan and the Riverside County Emergency Operations Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors will provide the necessary foundation for these management efforts.

The Riverside County Fire Department Fire Protection and EMS Strategic Master Plan discusses, at a minimum, descriptions of emergency services including available equipment, personnel, appropriate facilities, and capacity to assist and support wildfire suppression emergency service needs.

The Riverside County Emergency Operations Plan outlines the functions, responsibilities, and regional risk assessments of Riverside County for emergencies (e.g., wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, flooding, dam failure, light airplane crashes) and sets forth the planned response for managing these incidents. The plan addresses initial and extended emergency response and the recovery process.



Defensible Space:
 Defensible space refers to a separation zone between wildlands and structures where fuel, including natural and ornamental vegetation, man-made combustible materials, and ancillary structures, is managed or modified to minimize the spread of fire to the structure and allow space for defending structures from burning vegetation.

Policies:

- S 5.1 Develop and enforce construction and design standards that ensure that proposed development incorporates fire prevention features through the following:
- a. All proposed development and construction within Fire Hazard Severity Zones shall be reviewed by the Riverside County Fire and Building and Safety departments.
 - b. All proposed development and construction shall meet minimum standards for fire safety as defined in the Riverside County Building or County Fire Codes, or by County zoning, or as dictated by the Building Official or the Transportation Land Management Agency based on building type, design, occupancy, and use.
 - c. In addition to the standards and guidelines of the California Building Code and California Fire Code fire safety provisions, continue to implement additional standards for high-risk, high occupancy, dependent, and essential facilities where appropriate under the Riverside County Fire Code (Ordinance No. 787) Protection Ordinance. These shall include assurance that structural and nonstructural architectural elements of the building will not impede emergency egress for fire safety staffing/personnel, equipment, and apparatus; nor hinder evacuation from fire, including potential blockage of stairways or fire doors.

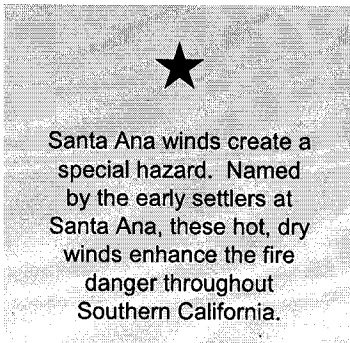


Travel time is based on standards published by the National Fire Protection Association and calculated using the travel distance from the fire station to the farthest dwelling unit of the development.

- d. Proposed development and construction in Fire Hazard Severity Zones shall provide secondary public access, in accordance with Riverside County Ordinances.
 - e. Proposed development and construction in Fire Hazard Severity Zones shall use single loaded roads to enhance fuel modification areas, unless otherwise determined by the Riverside County Fire Chief.
 - f. Proposed development and construction in Fire Hazard Severity Zones shall provide a defensible space or fuel modification zones to be located, designed, and constructed that provide adequate defensibility from wildfires.
- S 5.2 Encourage continued operation of programs for fuel breaks, brush management, controlled burning, revegetation and fire roads.
- S 5.3 Monitor fire-prevention measures (such as fuel reduction) through a site specific fire-prevention plan to reduce long-term fire risks in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
- S 5.4 Limit or prohibit development or activities in areas lacking water and access roads.
- S 5.5 Encourage proposed development in Fire Hazard Severity Zones to develop where fire and emergency services are available or planned.
- S 5.6 Demonstrate that the proposed development can provide fire services that meet the minimum travel times identified in Riverside County Fire Department Fire Protection and EMS Strategic Master Plan.
- S 5.7 Minimize pockets of flammable vegetation that increase likelihood of fire spread through conceptual landscaping plans to be reviewed by Planning and Fire Departments in the Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The conceptual landscaping plan of the proposed development shall at a minimum include:
- a. Plant palette suitable for high fire hazard areas to reduce the risk of fire hazards.
 - b. Retention of existing natural vegetation to the maximum extent feasible.
 - c. Removal of onsite combustible plants.
- S 5.8 Design to account for topography of a site and reduce the increased risk from fires in the Fire Hazard Severity Zones located near ridgelines, plateau escarpments, saddles, hillsides, peaks, or other areas where the terrain or topography affect its susceptibility to wildfires by:
- a. Providing fuel modification zones with removal of combustible vegetation, but minimizing visual impacts and limiting soil erosion.
 - b. Replacing combustible vegetation with fire resistant vegetation to stabilize slopes.

- c. Submitting topographic map with site specific slope analysis.
- d. Submitting erosion and sedimentation control plans.
- e. Providing a minimum 30 foot of setback from the edge of the fuel modification zones.
- f. Minimizing disturbance of 25% or greater natural slopes.

Wind-Related Hazards



Widespread fires following an earthquake, coupled with Santa Ana winds, constitute a worst-case fire suppression scenario. Because of dry vegetation conditions and Santa Ana winds, the fire danger for Riverside County is considered extremely high. Therefore, there is a statistically significant chance that this worst-case fire suppression scenario could occur.

Policies:

- S 5.9 Reduce fire threat and strengthen fire-fighting capability so that the County could successfully respond to multiple fires. (AI 88)
- S 5.10 Require automatic natural gas shutoff earthquake sensors in high-occupancy industrial and commercial facilities, and encourage them for all residences.
- S 5.11 Utilize ongoing brush clearance fire inspections to educate homeowners on fire prevention tips by implementing annual countywide weed abatement program. (AI 96)

Long-Range Fire Safety Planning

In the wildland/urban interface, flammable structures may be within reach of ignition sources from burning wildland and structural fuels. These are extremely dangerous and complex fire conditions that pose a tremendous threat to public and firefighter safety.

New developments frequently purport to maximize the amount of land left as natural open space. Cuts and/or fills are stopped at the natural interface. This leaves the backyard as the only buffer between the highly flammable natural vegetation and the house. Brush clearance is required, but can occasionally run into endangered species obstacles. The Multipurpose Open Space Element contains Policies OS 7.4 and 18.3 that address pests and invasive or nonnative species impacts related to wildfire hazard.

Wildfires leave problems behind them. During an intense wildfire, all vegetation may be destroyed, and organic material in the soil may be burned away or may decompose into water-repellent substances that prevent water from percolating into the soil. As a result, even normal rainfall may result in unusual erosion or flooding; heavy rain can produce destructive debris flows. The relative importance of topography, vegetation conditions, and geologic engineering properties underlying the County of Riverside are compiled into digital databases and should be used to assist in the mitigation of post-fire debris flow hazards.

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Policies:

- S 5.12 Conduct and implement long-range fire safety planning, including stringent building, fire, subdivision, and municipal code standards, improved infrastructure, and improved mutual aid agreements with the private and public sector.

Figure S-11 Wildfire Susceptibility

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- S 5.13 Develop a program to utilize existing reservoirs, tanks, and water wells in the county for emergency fire suppression water sources.
- S 5.14 Periodically review inter-jurisdictional fire response agreements, and improve firefighting resources as recommended in the Riverside County Fire Department Fire Protection Plan and EMS Strategic Master Plan to keep pace with development, including construction of additional high-rises, mid-rise business parks, increasing numbers of facilities housing immobile populations, and the risk posed by multiple ignitions, to ensure that (AI 4, AI 88):
- Fire reporting and response times do not exceed the goals listed in the Riverside County Fire Department Fire Protection Plan and EMS Strategic Master Plan identified for each of the development densities described.
 - Fire flow requirements (water for fire protection) are consistent with Riverside County Ordinance 787.
 - The planned deployment and height of aerial ladders and other specialized equipment and apparatus are sufficient for the intensity of development desired.
- S 5.15 Continue to utilize the Riverside County Fire Department Fire Protection Plan and EMS Strategic Master Plan as the base document to implement the goals and objectives of the Safety Element.
- S 5.16 Encourage property owners to utilize clustering and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program when developing lands within Fire Hazard Severity Zones by:
- Restricting the development of a property through placement of conservation easement.
 - Acquiring the conservation easements similar to that of MSHCP Program.
- S 5.17 Identify, map, and update on an as-needed continual basis, the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps. (Figure S-11)
- S 5.18 Ensure that the Fire Department has appropriate municipal staffing and fire protection planning staff that meet the needs of development pressure and adequately respond to long range fire safety planning.
- S 5.19 Implement a coordination program with fire protection and emergency service providers to reassess fire hazards after wildfire events and to adjust fire prevention and suppression needs, as necessary.
- S 5.20 Implement a regional coordination program to increase support for coordination among fire protection and emergency service providers.
- S 5.21 Implement a long-term training and education program among government agencies and communities about fire protection. (AI 93)

Hazardous Waste and Materials

Technically, the term “hazardous materials” includes the entire spectrum of such substances from pre-product materials to waste. However, the laws and regulations governing hazardous materials, and how they are stored, transported and handled, distinguish between “hazardous materials” and “hazardous waste.” For regulatory purposes, “hazardous materials” are defined as manufactured hazardous items and materials, as well as the “pre-product” hazardous substances used to create them. These materials, both pre-and post-production, are subject to extensive management and safety requirements. The waste generated by, or resulting from, the production that process becomes “hazardous waste,” which must be safely disposed of in an appropriate manner. And, in all cases, hazardous materials that have been spilled, dumped or otherwise released into the environment, regardless of source, immediately become hazardous waste.

Although the term “hazardous waste” is much more widely known, and the effects of its poor management in the past are very evident today, hazardous materials are actually more commonly used in close proximity to the general public. They are more frequently transported on freeways and public roads, and are more frequently stored near residential areas. An excellent example is the local service station which stores thousands of gallons of highly volatile, flammable and carcinogenic material, gasoline, adjacent to or near residential development with virtually no concern on the part of the public. Hazardous waste, on the other hand, is in the spotlight of public concern. The Love Canal, Stringfellow Acid Pits, Times Beach, and other incidents have dramatically publicized the result of mismanaging hazardous waste and have left the public with a not altogether undeserved distrust of industry and government policies on hazardous waste.

To ensure that hazardous materials are disposed of safely, there is a great need for facilities to process or treat hazardous wastes to render them safe for disposal. After waste minimization, these facilities are the key to the new management philosophy, and without them, waste management would remain in the dark ages. Unfortunately, public distrust has resulted in “Not-In-My-Back-Yard” (NIMBY) syndrome, making it more difficult to site the facilities necessary to implement these procedures.

Hazardous Waste Management

Senate Bill 1082 of 1993 (Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.11) required the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) to establish a “unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management” regulatory program (Unified Program). A local agency, such as a county, could apply to Cal/EPA for certification as a Unified Program Agency and become responsible for implementing the Unified Program within its jurisdiction. Such an agency is called a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).

The State of California’s Unified Program consolidates and coordinates the following six regulatory efforts:

- Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventories (Business Plans)
- California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program
- Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program
- Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act
- Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment Programs

- California Uniform Fire Code: Hazardous Material Management Plans and Hazardous Material Inventory Statements

The CUPA carries out the State of California's Unified Program on a regional basis and ensure that the program's implementation is consistent throughout the entire county. To that end, the CUPA must establish a program which consolidates, coordinates and makes consistent the administrative requirements, permits, inspection activities, enforcement activities, and fees for hazardous waste and materials. In order to retain its certification, the CUPA must perform an annual self-audit and is periodically reviewed by the Secretary of Cal/EPA every three years.

Shortly after Riverside County formed the Department of Environmental Health, its Hazardous Materials Management Division was designated as the Riverside County CUPA. As CUPA for Riverside County, the Division manages the following elements of the Unified Program:

Hazardous Waste Generators:

The Riverside County CUPA regulates businesses that conduct treatment of hazardous waste under certain tiered permitting requirements. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the DTSC regulates and inspects facilities both DTSC-permitted and non-permitted hazardous waste generators in Riverside County.

Hazardous Materials Business Plan Program (HMBP) and the Hazardous Materials Release Response Plan and Inventory Program:

The County of Riverside implements the HMBP to comply with AB2185, which addresses emergency response and the accessibility of hazardous materials information. A significant focus of the HMBP is safeguarding the community by making business' hazardous materials information readily available, both to the public and any first responders in the event of an emergency. The Riverside County CUPA addresses the issue of community-right-to-know through its records access section, which processes records requests for more than 1,000 sites each year.

Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team:

As the environmental health representative of the Joint Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team, the CUPA responds to hazardous materials incidents in tandem with the California Department of Forestry (CalFire) as HAZMAT 1.

Risk Management Prevention Program:

The Riverside County CUPA ensures countywide implementation of the California Accidental Release Prevention Program (CalARP) to comply with AB 3777, a state law that seeks to minimize potential emergencies involving acutely hazardous materials by requiring facilities which handle these materials to submit risk management prevention plans.

The Riverside County CUPA is also responsible for managing an "area plan" as required by the Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.95, Article 1, coordinating all local emergency resources, whether public or private. The plan addresses a variety of emergency concerns, including pre-emergency planning, emergency activities, coordination with other agencies and notification of appropriate agencies with regard to emergency incidents. The plan is a component of the California Emergency Management Agency's Regional Plan for Region VI, the California State mutual aid region encompassing Riverside County and its cities.

Chapter 6 **Safety Element**

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program:

The County of Riverside regulates USTs pursuant to Ordinance No. 617 (Regulating Underground Tank Systems Containing Hazardous Substances) which gives the CUPA authority to implement State of California UST regulations and to inspect USTs in the county.

Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) Program:

AB 1130 was enacted in 2007 which allowed the State Water Resources Control Board to transfer the implementation, enforcement and administration of the APSA Program to the local agencies. As of January 2012, the CUPA began inspections of aboveground petroleum storage facilities in the county.

The following General Plan policy is intended to ensure that the land use and siting decisions take hazardous waste management and risk reduction into account:

Policies:

- S 6.1 Enforce the land use policies and siting criteria related to hazardous materials and wastes through continued implementation of the programs identified in the County of Riverside Hazardous Waste Management Plan including the following: (AI 98)
- a. Ensure county businesses comply with federal, state and local laws pertaining to the management of hazardous wastes and materials including all Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) programs.
 - b. Ensure active public participation in hazardous waste and hazardous materials management decisions in Riverside County through the County's land use and planning processes.
 - c. Encourage and promote the programs, practices, and recommendations contained in the Riverside County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, giving the highest waste management priority to the reduction of hazardous waste at its source.

Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery

The Riverside County Emergency Services establishes the responsibilities of the various Riverside County agencies in times of a disaster. Disaster preparedness and response planning include identifying short-term actions to reduce the scope of an emergency, and managing necessary resources in the event of a disaster. After any disaster, particularly an earthquake, short-term disaster recovery requires many operations that are less urgent than fire suppression or medical attention, but are equally important.

The intent of these policies is to build Riverside County into a sustainable, disaster-resistant community by accommodating natural hazards through planning, zoning, and mitigation, while preparing to respond to disasters until this goal is achieved.

Disaster Preparedness

In recent years, the County of Riverside has expanded its emergency preparedness planning. The County of Riverside is required under state law to prepare and maintain a Standardized Emergency Management System

(SEMS) Multi-hazard Functional Plan. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services has extensive guidelines outlining the requirements of the Riverside County SEMS. These guidelines establish policies and procedures and assign responsibilities to ensure the effective management of emergency operations under the SEMS. However, the SEMS does not address long-range recovery planning issues.

Policies:

- S 7.1 Continually strengthen the Riverside County Emergency Management Department's Response Plan and Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (as approved by FEMA, the latest approved version is available online at planning.rctlma.org/LHMP) and maintain mutual aid agreements with federal, state, local agencies and the private sector to assist in:
 - a. Clearance of debris in the event of widespread slope failures, collapsed buildings or structures, or other circumstances that could result in blocking emergency access or regress.
 - b. Heavy search and rescue.
 - c. Fire suppression.
 - d. Hazardous materials response.
 - e. Temporary shelter.
 - f. Geologic and engineering needs.
 - g. Traffic and crowd control.
 - h. Building inspection.
- S 7.2 Encourage the utilization of multilingual staff personnel to assist in evacuation and short-term recovery activities, and meeting general community needs. (AI 97)
- S 7.3 Require commercial businesses, utilities, and industrial facilities that handle hazardous materials to: install automatic fire and hazardous materials detection, reporting and shut-off devices; and install an alternative communication system in the event power is out or telephone service is saturated following an earthquake.

- S 7.4 Use incentives and disincentives to persuade private businesses, consortiums, and neighborhoods to be self-sufficient in an emergency by: maintaining a fire control plan, including an onsite fire fighting capability and volunteer fire response teams to respond to and extinguish small fires; and
- identifying medical personnel or local residents who are capable and certified in first aid and CPR.
- S 7.5 Conduct regional earthquake drills and, where appropriate: (AI 82)
- utilize HAZUS results in the Technical Background Report to develop internal scenarios for emergency response; and
 - test back-up power generators in public facilities and other critical facilities taking part in the earthquake drill.
- S 7.6 Improve management and emergency dissemination of information using portable computers with geographic information systems and disaster-resistant Internet access, to obtain: (AI 86)
- Hazardous Materials Disclosure Program Business Plans regarding the location and type of hazardous materials;
 - Real-time information on seismic, geologic, or flood hazards; and
 - The locations of high-occupancy, immobile populations, potentially hazardous building structures, utilities and other lifelines.

Critical Facilities and Lifelines

Critical facilities are parts of infrastructure that must remain operational after an earthquake, or facilities that pose unacceptable risks to public safety if severely damaged. In Riverside County, critical facilities include schools, hospitals, fire and police stations, emergency operation centers, communication centers, dams, and industrial sites that use or store explosives, toxic materials or petroleum products. It is essential that critical facilities have no structural weaknesses that can lead to collapse.

Critical facilities may provide only limited services if lifelines are disrupted. The issue of seismic hazard mitigation for lifelines is very complex, given the diversity of lifeline facilities. The effects of strong ground motion applies to structures involved in lifeline service, such as the control tower in an airport, or the buildings that house computers and telephone circuits that are central to communication lifelines. Strong ground motion can also result in damage



HAZUS Earthquake Scenario Loss Estimations:

HAZUS is a standardized methodology for earthquake loss estimation based on GIS. HAZUS is designed for use by state, regional and local governments in planning for earthquake loss mitigation, emergency preparedness, response and recovery. The Safety Element Technical Background Report (Appendix H) provides a detailed earthquake loss estimation for Riverside County.



Critical Facilities:


Facilities housing or serving many people, that are necessary in the event of an earthquake or flood, such as hospitals, fire, police, and emergency service facilities, utility "lifeline" facilities, such as water, electricity, and gas supply, sewage disposal, and communications and transportation facilities.

to freeway interchanges and bridges that are essential for successful transportation lifelines. When properly designed, manufactured and laid out, buried pipelines are generally not damaged by strong ground motions, but can be severely disrupted in areas of surface rupture, liquefaction, or landslides.

Figures S-12 through S-22 depict the locations of hospitals, emergency response facilities, school locations, communications facilities, dams, transportation facilities, hazardous materials sites, and natural resource lifelines in relation to varying degrees of ground shaking risk. Each figure illustrates the geographical relationship between Riverside County's critical facilities and lifelines and the potential for ground shaking. The purpose of these maps is not to convey specifics, but rather to convey a picture of the concern that the County of Riverside can use to gain an appreciation of potential risk associated with ground shaking.

Policies:

- S 7.7 Strengthen the project permit and review process to ensure that proper actions are taken to reduce hazard impacts and to encourage structural and nonstructural design and construction. Damage must be minimized for critical facilities, and susceptibility to structural collapse must be minimized, if not eliminated.
 - a. Ensure that special development standards, designs, and construction practices reduce risk to tolerable levels for projects involving critical facilities, large-scale residential development, and major commercial or industrial development through conditional use permits and the subdivision review process. If appropriate, impact fees should be assessed to finance required actions.
 - b. Require mitigation measures to reduce potential damage caused by ground failure for sites determined to have potential for liquefaction. Such measures shall apply to critical facilities, utilities, and large commercial and industrial projects as a condition of project approval.
 - c. Require that planned lifeline utilities, as a condition of project approval, be designed, located, structurally upgraded, fit with safety shutoff valves, be designed for easy maintenance, and have redundant back up lines where unstable slopes, earth cracks, active faults, or areas of liquefaction cannot be avoided.
 - d. Review proposed uses of fault setback areas closely to ensure that county infrastructure (roads, utilities, drains) are not unduly placed at risk by the developer. Insurance, bonding, or compensation plans should be used to



State Seismic Hazard Zones:

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Hazards Zones Act addresses only the hazard of surface fault rupture - a phenomenon that only accounts for a relatively small percentage of earthquake losses. The Seismic Hazards Mapping Act was enacted to address the other 95% of earthquake losses. This act requires the State Geologist to: 1) compile maps identifying seismic hazard zones, for protecting the public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, or other ground failure and other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes; 2) submit these maps to all affected cities, counties, state agencies, and the State Mining and Geology Board for review; and 3) provide official maps to affected cities, counties, and state agencies.

For additional information regarding Seismic Hazard Zones, please visit the Division of Mines and Geology at:
<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dmg/>

compensate the County of Riverside for the potential costs of repair.

- S 7.8 Promote strengthening of planned and existing utilities and lifelines, the retrofit and rehabilitation of existing weak structures, and the relocation of certain critical facilities.
- S 7.9 Find alternatives that improve site safety for the protection of critical facilities. Property acquisition for open space, change in building use or occupancy, or other appropriate measures can be employed to reduce risks posed by hazards. (AI 101)
- S 7.10 Discourage development of critical facilities that are proposed in dam failure inundation areas, and apply hazardous materials safety guidelines within such zones.
- S 7.11 Coordinate with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and/or utilize the Capital Improvement Program, to strengthen, relocate, or take other appropriate measures to safeguard high-voltage lines, water, sewer, natural gas and petroleum pipelines, and trunk electrical and telephone conduits that (AI 4):
- Extend through areas of high liquefaction potential.
 - Cross active faults.
 - Traverse earth cracks or landslides.
- S 7.12 Require extra design considerations for lifelines across subsidence areas.

Earthquake Response System

Half of the magnitude 5.0 and greater earthquakes in California are preceded by immediate foreshocks (earthquakes within 72 hours and 10 kilometers of their mainshock). In 1991, using this information, a group of scientists developed an earthquake preparation system based on anomalous earthquake activity along the southern San Andreas fault. This system could be adapted by the County of Riverside to respond to short-term increases in hazard from the San Andreas fault.

Certainly, thoughtfulness and care must be exercised to construct a system that will enhance public safety without promoting rumors or fear. Also, the system must not be a substitute for long-term mitigation efforts. Such potential difficulties do not reduce the usefulness of short-term, pre-event response plans. Over time, new data and additional research should allow similar systems to be developed for other major southern California faults.

Policies:

- S 7.13 Develop a system to respond to short-term increases in hazard on the southern San Andreas fault, based on probabilities associated with foreshocks. (AI 85)

Emergency Evacuation

The State of California Government Code Section 65302 (g) requires local governments to assess the potential impact that flooding, and failure of dams or other water retention structures, might have on their jurisdiction. Safety Elements of General Plans must assess the impact of flooding from storm activity such as a 100-year flood event.

A 100-year flood event is a flood that has a 1/100 chance of occurring in any one year, and a 26% chance of occurring during a typical 30 year home mortgage. Smaller-scale flooding generally associated with overburdened storm drain and canal systems can damage property and hinder emergency activities such as fire department access or evacuation.

Policies:

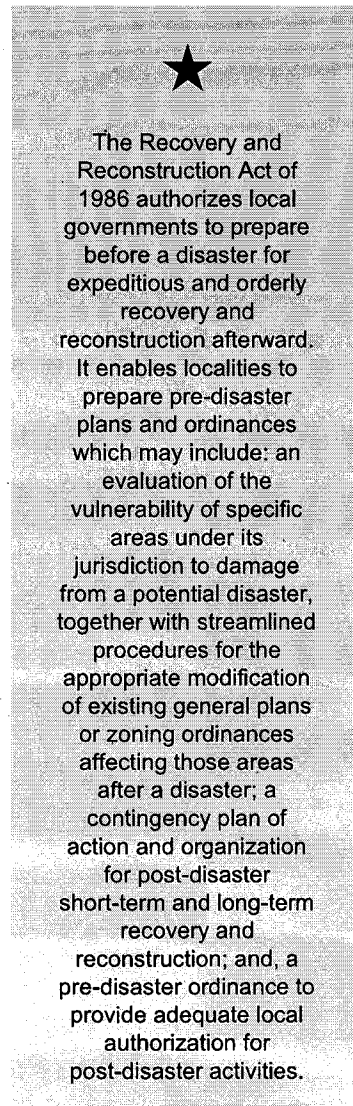
- S 7.14 Regularly review and clarify emergency evacuation plans for dam failure, inundation, fire and hazardous materials releases. (AI 88)
- S 7.15 Develop a blueprint for managing evacuation plans, including allocation of buses, designation and protection of disaster routes, and creation of traffic control contingencies. (AI 84, 88)
- S 7.16 During countywide earthquake drills, encourage communication and cooperation between emergency response staff and designated contacts at hospitals, high-occupancy buildings, and dependent care facilities.
- S 7.17 Adopt inundation alert and readiness levels corresponding with official forecasts by the State Office of Emergency Services, regarding earthquake prediction and potential for dam failure.

Disaster Recovery Plans

Communities around the world have recovered and reconstructed from catastrophic events. Emergency and disaster management literature about their experiences demonstrates many common patterns of recovery activity. In preparing a Safety Element for adoption, Riverside County is well positioned to learn from the disasters of others, and include advance-planning policies that provide the overall direction for future recovery planning and action. A Recovery and Reconstruction Ordinance is one component of a pre-event strategy, which itself is part of a detailed plan in a disaster preparedness, response and recovery program.

There is a point, though, when it becomes apparent that some things should **not** be rebuilt; that there are other, more appropriate uses for the land; that rebuilding today only lays the seeds for some future disaster - that fixing today is not worth wrecking tomorrow. Once that realization is reached, genuine progress in disaster reduction can be achieved.

Riverside County should prepare a recovery ordinance. At present, only a few other jurisdictions utilize the provisions of this act, including the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Whittier, as well as the counties of Los Angeles and San Bernardino. Over time, this law will prove increasingly valuable as more experience is gained from earthquakes and other major disasters.



The Recovery and Reconstruction Act of 1986 authorizes local governments to prepare before a disaster for expeditious and orderly recovery and reconstruction afterward. It enables localities to prepare pre-disaster plans and ordinances which may include: an evaluation of the vulnerability of specific areas under its jurisdiction to damage from a potential disaster, together with streamlined procedures for the appropriate modification of existing general plans or zoning ordinances affecting those areas after a disaster; a contingency plan of action and organization for post-disaster short-term and long-term recovery and reconstruction; and, a pre-disaster ordinance to provide adequate local authorization for post-disaster activities.

Chapter 6 Safety Element

Policies:

S 7.18 Develop plans for short-term and long-term post-disaster recovery. (AI 103)

Public Information and Outreach

Effective June 1, 1998, per the State Natural Hazards Disclosure Act, sellers of real property and their agents must provide prospective buyers with a "Natural Hazard Disclosure Statement" when the property being sold lies within one or more state-mapped hazard areas. If a property is located in a Seismic Hazard Zone as shown on a map issued by the State Geologist, the seller or the seller's agent must disclose this fact to potential buyers. Currently, state-issued Seismic Hazard Zone maps for Riverside County have yet to be prepared. Consequently, the hazard maps prepared for this element will be used for the purpose of notifying potential buyers during real estate transactions.

Policies:

S 7.19 Establish a far-ranging, creative, forward-thinking public education and outreach campaign, to inform the community about: (AI 93, 96)

- The hazards they face.
- The costs of doing nothing to mitigate the hazards.
- What is known about each hazard.
- Why jurisdictions don't have all the answers.
- Mitigation incentives.
- What the County of Riverside does for them.
- What the County of Riverside cannot be expected to do for them.

S 7.20 Forge assertive liaisons with researchers, other government agencies and providers of mitigation services.

S 7.21 Share data, experience, and strategies with other emergency management agencies.

S 7.22 Maximize use of technology and the Internet. (AI 94, 99)

S 7.23 Make the County of Riverside Hazard Management web site into a knowledge resource for Riverside County officials, educators, developers, builders, and the general public. (AI 94, 95, 99)

Figure S-12 Inventory of Hospital Locations

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Figure S-13 Inventory of Fire Facilities

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Figure S-14 Inventory of Emergency Response Facilities

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Figure S-15 Inventory of School Locations

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Figure S-16 Inventory of Communication Facilities

Chapter 6 Safety Element

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Figure S-17 Inventory of Dam Locations

Chapter 6 Safety Element

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Figure S-18 Inventory of Highway Bridges

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Figure S-19 Inventory of Facilities Storing Hazardous Materials

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Figure S-20 Airport Locations

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Figure S-21 Major Highway Locations

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Figure S-22 Rail Locations

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY ON COUNTY-WIDE GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND INTENT TO FILE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, California, on the 1st Floor Board Chambers, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, on **Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.** or as soon as possible thereafter, to consider **General Plan Amendment No. 1226**, which proposes to amend the Safety Element to update its seismic hazards liquefaction section to clarify text regarding these zones and to take advantage of new geologic and hydrologic data that was not available to the County during the last update of these maps in 2003, and this amendment will also incorporate four new maps published by the California Geologic Survey pursuant to the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. Finally, GPA 1226 will update all global references to the County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and Emergency Management Department, in order to appropriately incorporate by reference the recently updated LHMP, pursuant to Assembly Bill 2140.

The Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors tentatively approve the project, subject to the Board of Supervisors' adoption of the General Plan Amendment resolution, and find the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The project case file may be viewed from the date of this notice until the public hearing, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Riverside County Planning Department at 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, California 92501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT ROBERT FLORES, PROJECT PLANNER, AT (951) 955-1195 OR EMAIL RFlores@rivco.org.

Any person wishing to testify in support of or in opposition to the project may do so in writing between the date of this notice and the public hearing, or may appear and be heard at the time and place noted above. All written comments received prior to the public hearing will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Supervisors will consider such comments, in addition to any oral testimony, before making a decision on the project.

If you challenge the above item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence to the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing. Be advised that as a result of the public hearing and the consideration of all public comment, written and oral, the Board of Supervisors may amend, in whole or in part, the project and/or the related environmental document. Accordingly, the designations, development standards, design or improvements, or any properties or lands within the boundaries of the project, may be changed in a way other than specifically proposed.

Please send all written correspondence to: Clerk of the Board, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, CA 92502-1147 or email cob@rivco.org

Alternative formats available upon request to individuals with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation, please contact Clerk of the Board at (951) 955-1063 at least 72 hours prior to the hearing.

Dated: May 22, 2019 Kecia R. Harper, Clerk of the Board
By: Karen Barton, Board Assistant



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KIMBERLY A. RECTOR
Assistant Clerk of the Board

May 22, 2019

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Karen Barton

Board Assistant to:
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Sincerely,

Karen Barton

Board Assistant to:
KECIA R. HARPER, CLERK OF THE BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY ON COUNTY-WIDE GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND INTENT TO FILE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, California, on the 1st Floor Board Chambers, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, on **Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.** or as soon as possible thereafter, to consider **General Plan Amendment No. 1226**, which proposes to amend the Safety Element to update its seismic hazards liquefaction section to clarify text regarding these zones and to take advantage of new geologic and hydrologic data that was not available to the County during the last update of these maps in 2003, and this amendment will also incorporate four new maps published by the California Geologic Survey pursuant to the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. Finally, GPA 1226 will update all global references to the County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and Emergency Management Department, in order to appropriately incorporate by reference the recently updated LHMP, pursuant to Assembly Bill 2140.

The Planning Commission recommended that the Board of Supervisors tentatively approve the project, subject to the Board of Supervisors' adoption of the General Plan Amendment resolution, and find the project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

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Dated: May 22, 2019

Kecia R. Harper, Clerk of the Board
By: Karen Barton, Board Assistant

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

(Original copy, duly executed, must be attached to
the original document at the time of filing)

I, Karen Barton, Board Assistant to Kecia R. Harper, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, for the County of Riverside, do hereby certify that I am not a party to the within action or proceeding; that on May 22, 2019, I forwarded to Riverside County Clerk & Recorder's Office a copy of the following document:

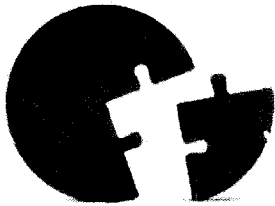
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

GPA 1226

to be posted in the office of the County Clerk at 2724 Gateway Drive, Riverside, California 92507. Upon completion of posting, the County Clerk will provide the required certification of posting.

Board Agenda Date: June 4, 2019 @ 10:00 A.M.

SIGNATURE: *Karen Barton* DATE: May 22, 2019
Karen Barton



RIVERSIDE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Charissa Leach, P.E.
Assistant TLMA Director

DATE: May 21, 2019

TO: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, attn. Karen Barton

FROM: Planning Department – Riverside

SUBJECT: GPA No. 1226, BOS public hearing on June 4, 2019

The attached item(s) require the following action(s) by the Board of Supervisors:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place on Administrative Action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Set for Hearing (Legislative Action Required; CZ, GPA, SP, SPA)
June 4, 2019 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Receive & File | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EOT | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labels provided If Set For Hearing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publish in Newspaper: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Day <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Day <input type="checkbox"/> 30 day | COUNTY WIDE - Press Enterprise and Desert Sun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place on Consent Calendar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEQA Exempt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place on Policy Calendar (Resolutions; Ordinances; PNC) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 Day <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Day <input type="checkbox"/> 30 day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Place on Section Initiation Proceeding (GPIP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notify Property Owners (app/agencies/property owner labels provided) |

Designate Newspaper used by Planning Department for Notice of Hearing:

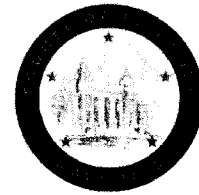
COUNTY WIDE - Press Enterprise and Desert Sun (the add must be 1/8th of a page, since there is no labels)

Riverside Office · 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor
P.O. Box 1409, Riverside, California 92502-1409
(951) 955-3200 · Fax (951) 955-1811

Desert Office · 77-588 Duna Court, Suite H
Palm Desert, California 92211
(760) 863-8277 · Fax (760) 863-7040

"Planning Our Future... Preserving Our Past"

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM

(ID # 9968)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

FROM : TLMA-PLANNING:

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING FOR GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 1226 (ENTITLEMENT/POLICY AMENDMENT) – CEQA Exempt, pursuant to Section 15601(b)(3) – REQUEST: General Plan Amendment (GPA) No. 1226 proposes to amend the Safety Element to update its seismic hazards liquefaction section to clarify text regarding these zones and to take advantage of new geologic and hydrologic data that was not available to the County during the last update of these maps in 2003. This amendment will also incorporate four (4) new maps published by the California Geologic Survey pursuant to the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. Finally, GPA No. 1226 will update all global references to the County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and Emergency Management Department, in order appropriately incorporate by reference the recently updated LHMP, pursuant to Assembly Bill 2140. – ALL DISTRICTS [\$19,000 Total cost – 100% General Fund/NCC]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. FIND that the project is EXEMPT from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) based on the findings and conclusions in the staff report; and,
2. TENTATIVELY APPROVE GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 1226 as recommended by the Planning Commission, with additional non-impacting modifications and references, as shown in Attachment C and D, based upon the findings and conclusions provided in the staff reports and attachments, and subject to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the General Plan Amendment resolution.

ACTION:

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$6,075	N/A	\$19,000	N/A
NET COUNTY COST	\$6,075	N/A	\$19,000	N/A
SOURCE OF FUNDS: General Fund/NCC			Budget Adjustment: N/A	
			For Fiscal Year: 16/17, 17/18, and 18/19	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

The State of California enacted the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (SHMA) [Public Resources Code, Section 2690 et seq.] in 1990 to provide for a statewide seismic hazard mapping and technical advisory program. The program assists cities and counties in fulfilling their responsibilities to protect public health and safety from the effects of strong ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, ground failure or other seismic hazards caused by earthquakes.

The California Geological Survey recently completed drafts of four Seismic Hazard Maps located within the County that were finalized early this year. Additionally, County staff and consultants have completed more detailed geological investigations in certain areas, including in the vicinity of March Air Reserve Base, which provide more accurate local information than what is contained on the current maps. This update will incorporate the latest mapping work and studies, and will also clarify that these maps are intended to indicate areas of potential hazard that should be further investigated as development occurs.

Assembly Bill 2140 (2016) (Gov't Code §8685.9, §65302.6) allows Riverside County to incorporate a FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) into Safety Element, which is one of the required elements of the General Plan. The County of Riverside adopted its current Multi-Jurisdictional LHMP in July 2018, and incorporating this updated document into the Safety Element will make the County eligible for public assistance funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act. The incorporation of the LHMP is optional, but this state incentive may help the County become more resilient to natural hazards.

General Plan Amendment

General Plan Amendment (GPA) No. 1226 proposes to amend the Safety Element to update the Safety Element's seismic hazards Liquefaction section to: (1) add four new maps published by the California Geologic Survey pursuant to the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, (2) update existing maps with new hydrologic and geologic data, and (3) update related text, as shown in Attachment C and D. Additionally, GPA No. 1226 will also globally corrected the name of the Riverside County Emergency Management Department and other terminology and incorporate by reference the latest FEMA-approved Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional LHMP by adding the following text to Policy S 7.1: "(as approved by FEMA, the latest FEMA-approved version is

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

available online at planning.rctlma.org/LMHP),” pursuant to Assembly Bill 2140, as shown in Attachment D.

This amendment affects the unincorporated areas of the County of Riverside.

GPA Findings

GPA No. 1226 is a General Plan Entitlement/Policy Amendment that amends language and maps in the Safety Element. Accordingly, the findings supporting this type of General Plan amendment have been prepared pursuant to Ordinance No. 348 Section 2.4 C 2. The findings supporting approval of GPA No. 1226 are found in the Planning Commission staff report, attached to this report (Attachment B) and incorporated herein.

CEQA Compliance

GPA No. 1226 proposes map changes and minor related text amendments for clarification, updates several figures for consistency with state data, globally updates important terminology, and appropriately references external documents in the Safety Element.

The proposed General Plan Amendment is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), “where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.”

Planning Commission Public Hearing

The Riverside County Planning Commission considered GPA No. 1226 at a regularly scheduled public hearing held on July 18, 2018 and recommended to the Board of Supervisors approval of GPA No. 1226 by a unanimous vote (5-0).

After the receiving a recommendation for approval from the Planning Commission, several minor additional changes to the Safety Element are being proposed, which include globally updating Safety Element terminology and incorporating the Riverside County Multi-Jurisdictional LHMP as part of the Safety Element, pursuant to AB 2140. The additional changes, shown in attachment D, are non-impacting, insignificant clerical changes to the documents presented to the Planning Commission on July 18, 2018.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The updates proposed in GPA No. 1226 ensures that the County continues to comply with State law and ensures that the County General Plan incorporates the latest information from the California Geological Survey for accuracy.

Additional Fiscal Information

The total cost to complete this general plan amendment is approximately \$19,000 – funded through NCC budget allocation. The Planning process for this project commenced in fiscal year

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

17/18 and will be completed this fiscal year (18/19). The above cost includes funds spent on drafting the General Plan Amendment, environmental considerations, and public hearings.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A Planning Commission Minutes

Attachment B Planning Commission Staff Report/Findings/Attachments

Attachment C Safety Element Figures

Attachment D Safety Element changes

Attachment E Safety Element (complete final version)

Attachment D Notice of Exemption

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA SS.
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**

RIVERSIDE COUNTY-BOARD OF SUP.
4080 LEMON ST

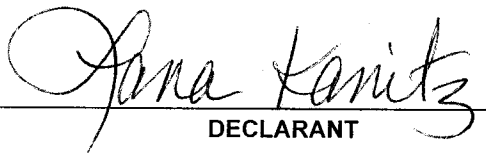
RIVERSIDE CA 92501

I am over the age of 18 years old, a citizen of the United States and not a party to, or have interest in this matter. I hereby certify that the attached advertisement appeared in said newspaper (set in type not smaller than non pariel) in each and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

05/25/19

I acknowledge that I am a principal clerk of the printer of The Desert Sun, printed and published weekly in the City of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, State of California. The Desert Sun was adjudicated a Newspaper of general circulation on March 24, 1988 by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California Case No. 191236.

I certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.. Executed on this 29th of May 2019 in Green Bay, WI, County of Brown.


DECLARANT

Ad#:0003583609
P O : GPA 1226
of Affidavits :1

6/4/19 21.4
Planning

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Dated: May 22, 2019

Kecia R. Harper, Clerk of the Board
By: Karen Barton, Board Assistant

Pub: 5/25/19

RECEIVED
 JUN 11 2019
 CLERK OF BOARD
 SUPERVISORS
 RIVERSIDE COUNTY

24 2019

JUL 24 2019 *lo*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

Receipt #: 19-147947

State Clearinghouse # (if applicable): _____

Lead Agency: COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Date: 05/22/2019

County Agency of Filing: RIVERSIDE

Document No: E-201900594

Project Title: GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 1226

Project Applicant Name: CLERK OF THE BOARD

Phone Number: (951) 955-1063

Project Applicant Address: 4080 LEMON ST. 1ST FLOOR, RIVERSIDE, CA 92502

Project Applicant: LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

- Environmental Impact Report
- Negative Declaration
- Application Fee Water Diversion (State Water Resources Control Board Only)
- Project Subject to Certified Regulatory Programs
- County Administration Fee
 - Project that is exempt from fees (DFG No Effect Determination (Form Attached))
 - Project that is exempt from fees (Notice of Exemption)

 _____ \$0.00

Total Received _____ \$0.00

Signature and title of person receiving payment:

U. Sandral

Deputy _____

Notes:

6/4/19 21.4
2019-7-144206

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY ON COUNTY-WIDE GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND INTENT TO FILE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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Kecia R. Harper, Clerk of the Board
By: Karen Barton, Board Assistant

FILED / POSTED

County of Riverside
Peter Aldana
Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

E-201900594
05/22/2019 09:44 AM Fee: \$ 0.00
Page 1 of 1

Removed: JUL 24 2019, Deputy



